UNITED NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/972
S/1997/699
9 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 9 May 1997 (A/51/895-S/1997/364) I have the honour to bring to your attention new and serious actions carried out by the illegal regime in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by Turkey.

In my above-mentioned letter I informed of the announced intention of the illegal secessionist entity, set up in the occupied area of Cyprus, to put up for sale properties, including the "Salamis Bay Hotel" in Famagusta, which was illegally usurped from its rightful owner following the Turkish invasion and occupation of a large part of Cyprus in 1974.

According to the Turkish-Cypriot newspaper Halkin Sesi of 26 August 1997 following a decision of the so-called Council of Ministers of the illegal entity, the "Salamis Bay Hotel" in the occupied area of Famagusta, has been leased to "Istanbul Airlines", a Turkish company, for a period of 49 years. The lease agreement involves a US$ 613,000 yearly payment plus 10 per cent of the net profits.

As I have indicated on previous occasions, such properties belong to their legal owners and thus their transfer to others is illegal and in violation of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

Also most relevant is the recent judgement of the European Court of Human Rights, delivered on 18 December 1996, in the case of Loizidou vs. Turkey concerning Greek-Cypriot owned immovable property in the occupied area of Cyprus. In its binding decision, the Court concluded that the applicant remained the legal owner of her property in the occupied area and that Turkey

was in violation of the European Human Rights Convention by preventing her from returning to and enjoying her property in Kyrenia.

These actions by Turkey, which are aimed at consolidating the fait accompli created through the use of military force, are in violation of the principles and norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly these illegal Turkish actions and to request the immediate intervention of the United Nations to prevent them from taking place.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative